

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a water-absorbent resin, wherein said process comprises:

- a) polymerizing to completion an α,β unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer to produce a polymerized water-containing gelated product;
- b) adding a metal chelating agent at any step in the preparation of a the water-absorbent resin, ~~wherein said water absorbent resin is made from an α,β unsaturated carboxylic acid as an essential monomer, and~~ wherein said metal chelating agent is added in an amount of 0.001 to 6 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid; ~~and~~
- c) adding a reducing agent or an oxidizing agent ~~thereto~~ to the polymerized water-containing gelated product in an amount of 0.001 to 6 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid; and
- d) ~~before initiation of drying and/or during drying of a the gelated product containing a water absorbent resin obtained by polymerization. thereby yielding a polymerized water-absorbent resin having greater discoloration resistance than a polymerized water-absorbent resin having no reducing or oxidizing agent and no metal chelating agent added thereto.~~

2. (Original) The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1, wherein the reducing agent is a sulfite, a hydrogensulfite, a dithionite or a pyrosulfite.

3. (Original) The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1, wherein the oxidizing agent is hydrogen peroxide.

4. (Original) The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1, wherein the metal chelating agent is at least one member selected from the group consisting of diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid, triethylenetetraminehexaacetic acid, trans-1,2-diaminocyclohexanetetraacetic acid, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, tripolyphosphoric acid, and salts thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) A water-absorbent resin obtained by the process of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the water-absorbent resin has Yellow Index of 12 or less, after allowing to stand at 50°C and 90% relative humidity for 20 days.

6. (Original) An absorbent comprising a water-absorbent resin obtained by the process of any one of claims 1 to 4, and a hydrophilic fiber.

7. (Original) An absorbent article comprising the absorbent of claim 6, wherein the absorbent is kept between a liquid-permeable sheet and a liquid-impermeable sheet.

8. (Cancelled)